(b) if so, the outcome of the talks, particularly about division of the water of Ganga, Tista, Monu, Khowai, Awadhkumari, Dharala, Muhari and Gomati rivers; and

(c) the details of the projects/dams/canals proposed to be built on those eight rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the 7th meeting of Joint Committee of Experts (JCE) at Secretary level on sharing of waters of Teesta and other common rivers was held at Dhaka on 14th and 15th September, 2004. Discussion were mainly held on sharing of Teesta waters. During the meeting, it was decided that the Joint Technical Groups (JTG) which had been constituted earlier during the 6th meeting of JCE, may hold meetings again and make efforts to further narrow the gaps on the pending issues. Accordingly the 3rd meeting of JTG was held at New Delhi on 9th and 10th November, 2004 wherein it was decided to continue the discussions further.

No discussions took place on other common rivers namely Manu, Khowai, Dudhkumar, Dharala, Muhuri and Gumti. River Ganga is not covered under the talks by JCE as there already exists a Treaty on sharing of Ganga/Ganges Waters which was entered between India and Bangladesh in December, 1996.

(c) Does not arise.

**Interlinking of Rivers**

569. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiative has been taken on the programmes of interlinking of rivers in the greater interest of the country; and

(b) if so, the status of the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. Two proposals for interlinking of rivers which have attracted considerable attention were given by Dr. K. L. Rao in 1972 and Captain Dastur in 1977. These proposals were not found techno-economically viable. Later, the Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission (CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan

Environment & Forests for acceptance of a project. However, for investment clearance of the Planning Commission, statutory clearance from both the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Environment & Forests is required. The details of various irrigation schemes submitted by the State Governments and under various stages of appraisal are given in the enclosed statement (*see* below).

(c) The appraisal/clearance of the projects depends upon the promptness with which the State authorities arrange the compliance to the observations of the Central appraising agencies.

***Statement***

Pending irrigation schemes

| Sl. No. | States | Total |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 27 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — |
| 3. | Assam | — |
| 4. | Bihar | 04 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 03 |
| 6. | Goa, Daman, Diu | — |
| 7. | Gujarat | 01 |
| 8. | Haryana | 03 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 03 |
| 10. | J & K | 10 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 07 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 12. | Karnataka | 05 |
| 13. | Kerala | 02 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 08 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 54 |
| 16. | Manipur | 02 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | — |
| 18. | Nagaland | 02 |
| 19. | Orissa | 15 |
| 20. | Punjab | 08 |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 13 |
| 22. | Sikkim | — |
| 23. | Tamil Nadu | 02 |
| 24. | Tripura | — |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh | 11 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 01 |
| 27. | West Bengal | 01 |
| | GRAND TOTAL: | 182 |